

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015  
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Hepfer  
Vice President Ryan  
Councilwoman Bega  
Councilman McBride  
Councilman Hinkle  
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Malm, Finance Director Chiodo, Event Director Skeelee-Hogan and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motioned carried.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

**Ann Perry – Eden Drive**, Inverness appealed to Council regarding the decision for their own Fire Dept. She has concerns with equipment, qualified mechanics to fix and maintain equipment, etc. She questioned why the city wants its own fire department when the current one is doing fine. Ms. Perry asked Council to reconsider.

**Nancy Kratzer – 813 Balmoral** thinks the Council is making a mistake going on our own and need to reconsider. Citizens she has spoken to does not want the change.

#### **SCHEDULED APPEARANCES**

**6a) Dennis Dix – Suncoast Parkway II** – Dennis Dix spoke regarding the Suncoast Parkway Public Hearing. Funding is in place for Suncoast 2 for half of it, the 13 miles from US 98 to State Route 44. The 13 miles north of State Route 44 two US 19 is currently in suspension and not funded. Production to begin next June to be completed in 2019. The cost of the first 13 miles is approximately \$258 million and money already in place with Turnpike toll revenues. MPO adopted its work program which contains Suncoast 2, though an environmental study will be made in a section N of 44 near Norvell Bryant. At the August 18<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting, language referencing Suncoast 3 will be removed. In the MPO work program there is a section for bicycle trail-type projects.

Citrus County has 16 of this type of project, with two involving the City being Pleasant Grove and Gospel Island Dr. Projects are generally added to the 5<sup>th</sup> year program.

Councilman McBride, member of MPO provided his appreciation to Mr. Dix. He questioned if this is going to be an extension of Suncoast III to go to Jacksonville. Mr. Dix spoke of the volume of traffic around the Jacksonville I-75 corridor.

### **MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

None

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Attorney Haag advised that the next two meetings of City Council will be handled by his wife, Attorney Jeanette Haag, in his absence due him having a medical procedure.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.**

- a) Bill Listing\*
  - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 07/07/15\*
  - Recommendation – Approval

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**10)a) 2015 Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)** was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni who advised of the scheduled item to be on the next meeting's agenda. The document will not be copied as it is too large, and we will make it available for review in the Clerk's Office. If they wish to have the document electronically, we can make it available with a CD.

**10)b) Florida Water & Pollution Control Operations Association (FW&PCOA) Safety Award** – was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni, who advised that has once again recognized the City of Inverness Wastewater Treatment Facility for the 2015 safety Award. We congratulate the systems lead Manager, Mike Regina and the entire staff of our public private partner, Woodard and Curran, for this achievement and recognition. He recognized Mike Regina and praised he and staff for the great job they do. Councilman McBride noted that this was not the first time they have received this award.

**10)c) Zephyr Street Project Presentation** - City Manager DiGiovanni advised that at the prior meeting of City Council we reviewed details of this project i.e.; conflicts with encroachments. We have conducted informal discussion with affected people, as well as reviewed the project with the new owner of Leeson's Mobile Home Park. FDOT funding is involved and we must stay on a timetable keeping everything in place. The project start date is set for mid to late September and looking to conclude May of 2016. This will be an improvement to traffic flow, as well as pedestrian access and mobility.

We will use traffic calming at certain sections and will be addressing the crook in the road and soften the area.

**10)d) Budget Transfer – Use of Contingencies** was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni who advised that the purchase of Fire Safety Equipment will be contained in the ensuing budget. An opportunity to secure fire services equipment at a very attractive price has come to our attention, and don't want to let an opportunity that can save the community, slip by. We propose to move \$250,000 of existing funds from the Government Plaza Capital Project, to Fire Safety Equipment, and replenish plaza development funds in 2016.

**Councilman Hinkle motioned to authorize the transfer of \$250,000 of available funding from Government Plaza Development to Fire Safety Equipment, with the intention of replenishing plaza funding in 2016. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10)e) Agreement for Fire District Tax** was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni stated that since 1974, the City has been part of the Fire District of Citrus Co, which was supported by people. There were changes moving forward which have caused discussions at staff level to come up with an instrument (Interlocal Agreement) that addressed a number of components of the District and the City. In the agenda packet is an agreement that is straight forward and clear with language, and identifies the Cities participation in the 1974 Voter Initiated Fire District Tax. It speaks to the fact that for 40 plus years, the City has contributed 4.8 million dollars into the District which brings to it a level of equity. The District identifies the fire station, truck, fire fighting equipment which was made available to them at that time. This agreement speaks to the existing lease the City has with the District will terminate, and that the City will reclaim the building, using the date October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and if this cannot happen we will work together. It speaks to the City entering into an agreement with Nature Coast Ambulance Service to have an ambulance station in the Firehouse to provide services to the City and beyond. This is currently structured that the City's equity would stay with the district, as we want to have a very proactive relationship with the district, and we are going to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement. He noted how Inter Agency Agreements are all subject to annual appropriation and descension of the existing Boards and you can't lock those boards into these agreements. This agreement speaks to the City commencing to providing services on or about October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, but doesn't speak to the minor details and can be done through the annual budgetary consideration and appropriation.

The county will discuss this tomorrow morning at special meeting as they need to set their millage rates. He stated that this gives County Government a number of flexibilities they desire and gives City Council an understanding moving forward on how to build its budget and its relationship with County Government. He hoped this was clear and how this is all about building relationships and providing services well into the future.

Councilwoman Bega referenced paragraph 3, where it specifically names Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation and questioned if it should name them specifically, or should it just state that we will procure an agreement with another party?

Attorney Haag explained why they named Nature Coast as it referred back to an agreement between the county and Nature Coast. It was discussed and agreed to add to the agreement in paragraph 3: "or its successor in function" to the end of the sentence.

Councilman Hinkle noted that he liked the idea of leaving the equity with the County and Mutual Aid Agreement is a positive thing.

Councilman McBride noted a phone call received from commissioner earlier in the day who advised they could not vote for this Interlocal Agreement as it now stands. Councilman McBride questioned where we would stand if there is not an agreement with this document. City Manager DiGiovanni, stated that we have time and what was in the agreement were obvious points, consistent with history, and provides a foundation moving forward.

Councilman McBride questioned what would occur if we were not ready to have our own Fire Department by Oct 1, 2015? City Manager noted that we would purchase services on a monthly basis, if that occurred. Councilman McBride read aloud the "Whereas" statement which spoke to the \$250,000 per annum amount the District is to provide the City of Inverness for operation of its fire department, and asked what would happen if the millage rate was reduced to -0-?

City Manager DiGiovanni explained that this community is currently paying that, which is the partial payment to fire services. If that went away, the council would then determine how to close that gap. One option would be to create the same dynamic that the district has created as an alternate mechanism.

Councilman McBride stated that his only other concern would be issues of cost for dispatch, radios, etc., and asked if that occurred, would we have an opportunity for the City to revisit this matter. City Manager DiGiovanni stated that the City Council reserves it's right to meet its obligation through dialog and change in setting policy, and you always have policy opportunity with everything.

Councilman McBride questioned if Council was able to review this matter again, what would be a drop dead date for the council to have a different agreement with the County?

City Manager DiGiovanni stated that the door should always be open, as it comes down to paying your fair share to get the service. He stated that once the County adopts the budget and sets millage rates, they can't make more, so if there was a funding mechanism in place from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, those service levels could always be provided.

President Hepfer stated that contractually it's good and she had a heavy heart as to why we are doing it.

**Councilman Hinkle motioned adopt the Interlocal Agreement and send it to County Government for their review and ratification, with the noted change regarding Nature Coast Emergency Medical Foundation. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion passed unanimously.**

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- He noted recent departmental modifications, stating that Dale Malm has now changed from Development Services to Project Director, and a new addition, from the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Commission, is Bruce Day, who will be head planner for Development Services. Bruce is very familiar with all of the regulatory aspects, not only with the state, but

also other cities. Councilman Hinkle noted how wonderful Bruce's qualifications are, as experienced as a member of the WRPC.

- The City recently experienced a catastrophic water pipe failure on the 2,300 acre Espedico Estate. The pipe was over 35 years old and the failure was caused by a lightning bolt which hit a pine tree next to the transmission line and the rupture causing water outage for the entire city. There was a boil water notice to every residence and business for one week. City Manager spoke of the required samplings that were needed to clear the boil water notice.
- The Patriotic Evening fireworks on July 3 drew an enormous crowd, even with the treacherous weather. People are still talking about how well the event was.
- Working to finalize the CIP and the O & M Budget for all agencies including the expanded CRA. Discussion will occur with the ICRA board and the Council regarding debt service. Will bring forward an interagency agreement between Council and the ICRA board, regarding function, etc. There are more complexities with the expanded CRA. Will see the most important and immediate use of CRA funds will be around the medical community area. These funds will also be used for the industrial park to expand and grow. We are excited about the opportunity to invest in Citrus County and the City of Inverness as it equates to jobs, etc.
- Working toward a ribbon cutting for the illumination of Cooter Pond Linear Park, sometime in September.

### **COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS**

Mayor Plaisted spoke of damage on his property from the recent storms. Spoke to Zephyr Street project, congratulated Woodard & Curran on their award and Dennis Dix regarding the Suncoast Parkway II.

Councilman McBride noted it is good to see we have our flags at ½ staff regarding the marines and sailor who were recently killed. He spoke to the national news involving a local gun shop owner declaring his business as a Muslim-free zone. This is disappointing and hopes it will pass.

Councilwoman Bega looks forward to the Zephyr Street project and appreciates all the citizen input at our meetings.

Councilman Ryan hopes that all appreciates what goes into our thoughts and actions as we do this in the City's best interest, and we listen to all comments. Looking forward to Zephyr Street Project and the Parrot Head Concert. Hopes everyone prays for the veterans and those fighting for our freedom.

Councilman Hinkle appreciates all that Council does for our community. He spoke to the Interlocal Agreement regarding fire services. Commended all the volunteers in the community for what they do, including the young people. He spoke to the upcoming school year, and congratulated Bruce Day on his new position with the City.

Council President Hepfer congratulated Mike, Dale, and Bruce. Thanked staff for their efforts during the water main break. She spoke to the CRA expansion and the industrial area. Zephyr Street project is very exciting, as it affects her neighborhood.

**CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA**

Harry Kratzer, 813 Balmoral Court spoke to the budget transfer and funding of the fire department. City Manager stated all government funding comes from the people, as a combination of the business community and the people. Council is optioning to take a path that appears to be less impactful.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm**

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**City Clerk**

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**Council President**